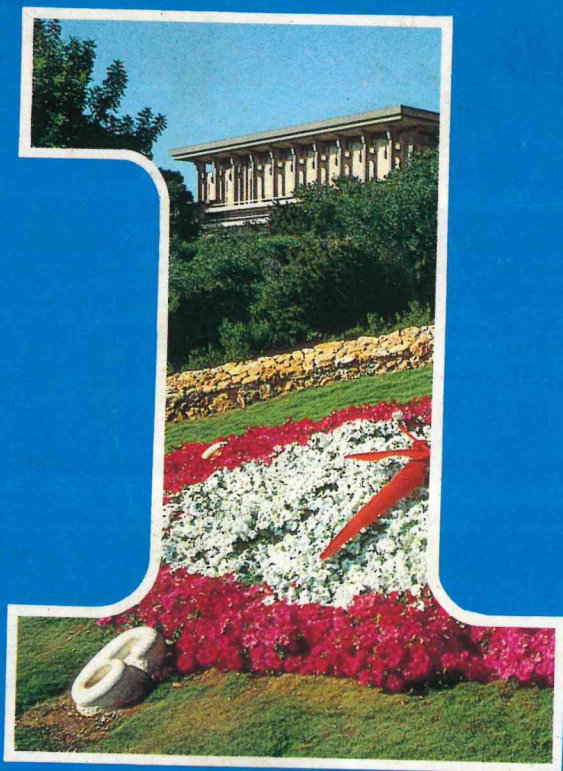
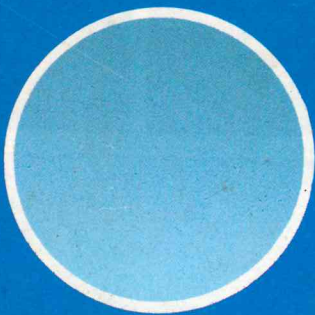
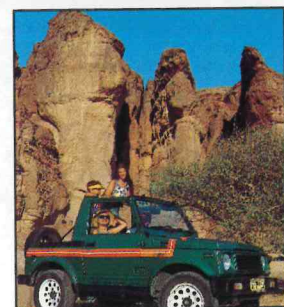


ISRAEL

A VISITOR'S COMPANION





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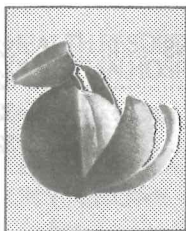
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Note:

The information in this booklet is correct as of January 1, 1993. The Ministry of Tourism recommends verifying all relevant particulars before your trip or on arrival. Thank you.



ISRAEL — PAST AND PRESENT

Israel, the Promised Land of the Bible, is today a modern, thriving, bustling and vibrant country. For centuries, the sites of many of the most stirring events in the history of mankind lay dormant beneath shifting sands and crumbling

terraces, until the land was reclaimed and revitalised by the People of Israel, returning from exile. In today's Israel, cities, towns and villages, fertile farms and green forests, sophisticated industries and well-developed commercial enterprises have replaced barren hillsides, swamps and desert wilderness.

But the echoes of the past still reverberate amid this dynamic rebirth. Jerusalem, the Holy City and eternal Capital of Israel, retains its aura of sanctity and welcomes a constant stream of pilgrims of all faiths. The contemporary city of Be'er Sheva (Beersheba) stands at the threshold of the Negev Desert, as it did in the days of the Patriarch Abraham. Elat, Israel's outlet to the Red Sea, is again a busy seaport, as it was during the reign of King Solomon.

Besides its religious and historical sites, Israel has much to offer the tourist — vast stretches of clean, sunny beaches, modern cities and hotels, *kibbutzim* (collective villages), theatres and nightclubs, health resorts and colourful markets — all within a compact geographic microcosm: only a few hours' travelling time separates the sun-warmed seashores and the snow-capped mountains, the lush forests and the scenic desertscapes. Israel is indeed a rich and varied bouquet of attractions.



THE STATE OF ISRAEL

The independent State of Israel was proclaimed on May 14, 1948. Israel is a parliamentary democracy. Its 120-member unicameral legislature, the Knesset, is elected by universal suffrage according to the proportional representation system. The government is administered by the Cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister. The official Head of State is the President, elected by the Knesset for a five-year term.



GEOGRAPHY

Israel is a Middle Eastern continental crossroads, bounded by the Mediterranean Sea to the west, the Great Syrian-African Rift to the east and the Red Sea to the south, sharing its borders with Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and

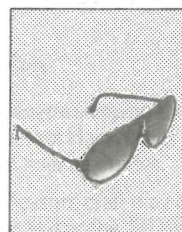
Egypt.

The northern and central part of Israel, where most of the population is concentrated, is divided into three distinct longitudinal sectors:

- **The Coastal Plain**, to the west, including the major urban centres of Tel Aviv and Haifa;
- **The Valley Region**, to the east, with the Jordan River linking the two inland seas (the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea);
- **The mountain range in central Israel**, incorporating the Hills of Galilee, Samaria and Judea, including the capital, Jerusalem.

In the northeast rise the Golan Heights and snow-capped Mt. Hermon, while the Southern Region comprises the Negev and Arava Deserts, which constitute much of the country's land area, including Be'er Sheva, capital of the Negev, and Elat on the Red Sea.

Altitudes vary from 2,224 m. (7,296 ft.) at Mt. Hermon to -392 m. (-1,286 ft.) at the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth.



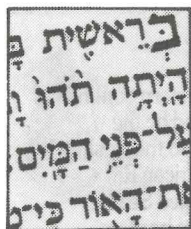
CLIMATE

Israel enjoys long, warm, dry summers (April-October) and generally mild winters (November-March), with somewhat drier, cooler weather in hilly regions, such as Jerusalem and Safed. Even in winter, spells of rain are interspersed with brilliant sunshine (see Table 1: *Average Temperatures* in the Ready Reference Guide, p. 40).



POPULATION

As of 1993, Israel had a population of nearly five million persons, comprising a Jewish majority and sizable communities of Moslems, Christians, Druze and other minorities.



LANGUAGES

Hebrew, the revitalised language of the Bible, is the official language of Israel, along with Arabic. English, the most common second language, is a mandatory subject at school. French, Spanish, German, Yiddish, Russian,

Polish and Hungarian are also widely spoken, and local and international newspapers and periodicals in a variety of languages are readily available. All street and road signs and most commercial signs are in Hebrew, Arabic and English.



TRAVELLING TO ISRAEL

Air

Twenty-four international airlines operate scheduled flights to Israel's Ben-Gurion International Airport (Tel: (03) 971-2484/8) at Lod (near Tel Aviv):

El Al Israel Airlines, Adria, Air France, Air Sinai, Alitalia, Arkia, Austrian Airlines, British Airways, Cyprus Airways, Iberia, KLM, Lufthansa, LOT, Malev, Olympic, Pan American, Sabena, SAS, South African Airways, Swissair, Tarom, Turkish Airways, Tower Air and TWA. Certain flights from European countries also land at Ovdia (Tel: (07) 359442) or Elat (Tel: (07) 371185 or 373733) International Airports in southern Israel.

Pilots interested in flying their own planes to Israel should provide the Israel Airports Authority with all mandatory information at least 48 hours in advance of the ETA — via cable, AFTN message, telex or fax — and await clearance before commencing the flight.

For further information, contact:

Israel Airports Authority

P.O. Box 137

Ben-Gurion International Airport

70100 Lod

Tel: (03) 971-2484

Fax: (03) 972-1217

Telex: 381003 TELCO IL

Cable Address: MEMTEUFA BENGURION AIRPORT

Sea

Several shipping lines offer regular sailings from Europe to the port of Haifa. Many Mediterranean cruises also include Israel in their itineraries.

Pleasure craft may enter Israel via the ports of Haifa, Ashdod or Elat or the Tel Aviv Marina. Following border and customs clearance, they may proceed to any of Israel's four special yacht marinas:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Atarim (Tel Aviv) | Tel: (03) 527-2596 | Fax: (03) 527-2466 |
| 2. Yafa (Jaffa) | Tel: (03) 820772 | Fax: (03) 459169 |
| 3. Akko (Acre) | Tel: (04) 919287 | Fax: (04) 913889 |
| 4. Elat | Tel: (07) 357186 | Fax: (07) 370082 |

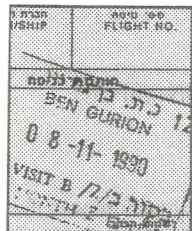
Please contact the marina of your choice and reserve place several weeks in advance, providing full particulars concerning your vessel.

Land

Jordan: The Allenby Bridge, near Jericho, about 40 km. (25 mi.) from Jerusalem, is the border checkpoint for tourists between Israel and Jordan. Bus and taxi service is available to the bridge, but no private vehicles are permitted to cross. Nationals of countries who are required to obtain an Israeli visa in advance should be sure to do so before departure or in any country en route which has an Israeli diplomatic mission. Visitors who must obtain Israeli visas in advance (see p. 9) should do so **before** visiting Jordan, as such **visas cannot be obtained at the Allenby Bridge or in any Arab country (except Egypt).**

Egypt: There are two crossing points from Egypt into Israel: *Rafiah* (Rafah), the main point of entry, located some 50 km. (about 30 mi.) southwest of Ashqelon. Four bus companies maintain routes between Cairo and Tel Aviv and Jerusalem via Rafiah (further information is available at travel agencies in Egypt). Egged Bus No. 362 leaves Tel Aviv for the Rafiah Terminal daily at 8:50 AM and Rafiah for Tel Aviv at 3:00 PM. Egged Bus No. 100 leaves Tel Aviv for Cairo and Cairo for Tel Aviv daily at 8:00 AM.

Taba, just south of Elat, open 24 hours a day. Visitors may enter Israel on foot, by private car or in organised tour buses. Regular bus service is available between Taba, Santa Katerina (Sinai) and Cairo.



P ASSPORTS AND VISAS

Every visitor to Israel must hold a valid passport; stateless persons require a valid travel document with a return visa to the country of issue. Visitors may remain in Israel for up to three months from date of arrival, subject to the terms

of the visa issued. Visitors who intend to work in Israel must apply to the Ministry of the Interior for a special visa (B/1).

Visitors' Visas

Citizens of the following countries will be issued visitors' visas (or transit visas — see below) free of charge at port of entry in Israel: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eire, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany (citizens born January 1, 1928 or later), Greece, Gibraltar, Guatemala, Haiti, Hong Kong, Hungary (fee charged), Italy, Iceland, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Malawi,

Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, San Marino, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, St. Kitts, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Nevis, Tobago, United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man), Uruguay and the United States.

Citizens of the following countries (as well as stateless persons) should apply for visas before their departure at any Israel diplomatic or consular mission:

Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Benin, Bermuda, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei, Burkina Faso (Upper Volta), Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Brazzaville), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Germany (citizens born before January 1, 1928), Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, India, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Kiribati, Liberia, Madagascar, Malta, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, Papua - New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, Turkey, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Western Samoa, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Citizens of any other country should apply for visas at the nearest Israel diplomatic or consular mission, remitting the prescribed fee.

Transit Visas

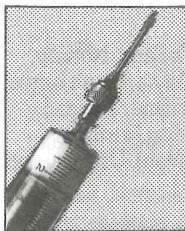
Visitors interested in stopping over in Israel en route to other destinations may request five-day transit visas, which may be extended for another ten days on arrival in Israel. Cruise ship passengers visiting Israel will be issued **Landing Cards**, allowing them to remain in the country as long as the ship is in port. No visa applications are required.

Collective Visas

Collective visas are issued by Israel diplomatic or consular missions for groups of no fewer than five and no more than 50 persons.

Extending Your Stay

Visas may be extended (for a nominal fee) at offices of the Ministry of the Interior in the following locations: Afula, Akko (Acre), Ashqelon, Be'er Sheva, Elat, Hadera, Haifa, Herzelia, Holon, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Netanya, Petah Tiqva, Ramat Gan, Ramla, Rehovot, Safed, Tel Aviv and Tiberias.

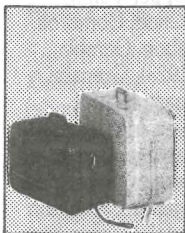


HEALTH REGULATIONS

There are no vaccination requirements for visitors entering Israel.

Pets: Dogs or cats accompanying visitors must be over four months old, inoculated against rabies and bear a valid **official** veterinary health

certificate from the country of origin.



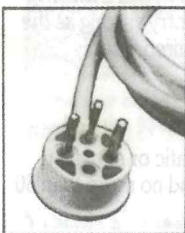
WHAT TO PACK

Summer (April-October): Lightweight suit, slacks, shorts and open-neck shirts for men, several light cotton daytime dresses and a more formal afternoon dress for women, light shoes, sandals and walking shoes; sunglasses and hat

(essential); swimsuit and beachwear; a light coat, jacket or sweater for cool evenings in the hills.

Winter (November-March): Warm coat, sweaters, raincoat and hat, walking shoes, overshoes, shirts, slacks, sports jacket and suit for men, warm suit, blouses, skirts and slacks, long dress or evening skirt for women; lighter clothing and swimsuit for Elat, the Dead Sea region and the Red Sea coast; umbrella.

Between Seasons: Suits, light coats, sweaters and light blouses or shirts.



ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

The electric current in Israel is 220 Volts AC, single phase, 50 Hertz. Most Israeli sockets are of the three-pronged variety, but many accommodate some European two-pronged plugs as well.

Electric shavers, travelling irons and

other small appliances may require adapters and/or transformers, which can be purchased in Israel.



BORDER PROCEDURES

Passport Control

On arrival in Israel, visitors will present their passports and entry forms to be stamped by the Passport Control official. Persons who do not wish their

passports stamped should inform the official accordingly before submitting their documents. Compliance with such requests is at the discretion of the authorities.

Security checks are carried out routinely for your protection and safety. We thank you for your understanding and patience.

Land Border Regulations

Jordan: The Allenby Bridge is open on the Israel side Sundays through Thursdays, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM and on Fridays and the eve of major Holidays from 8:00 to 11:00 AM only. It is closed on Saturdays and major Holidays. Israel imposes no restrictions on crossings by tourists from Israel to Jordan or Jordan to Israel and back. Visitors entering Israel from Jordan who require visas in advance (see p. 9) must obtain such visas **before** arrival in Jordan. Please note that foodstuffs of all types, as well as all items sealed in containers which cannot be opened for inspection, may not be brought into Israel from Jordan. A border tax is levied for entering and leaving Israel and may be paid at the bridge. There is a Tourist Information Office (TIO) at the Allenby Bridge for your convenience (Tel: (02) 923604). Taxi service is available to Jerusalem.

Egypt: The two crossing points from Egypt into Israel are open all year round, seven days a week, (except for Yom Kippur and the first day of the Moslem Feast of Id El-Adha).

Rafiah: The Rafiah Terminal (Tel: (07) 734080) is open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily. Visitors crossing the border by car must present a valid driving licence and carnet de passage. Rented cars are not permitted across the border. Egged Bus No. 33 runs between the Israeli and Egyptian Terminals every 20 minutes. An unscheduled Egyptian bus follows the same route. Passage between the terminals on foot is prohibited.

Taba: Visitors crossing the border from Israel to the Taba Hilton Hotel **only** do not require an Egyptian visa and need only present their passports at the border checkpoint (Tel: (07) 373110), which is open 24 hours a day. Persons intending to visit Southern Sinai may obtain a special Egyptian visa at the border, valid for two weeks only. A departure fee is charged.

For visas of longer duration and those valid for the rest of Egypt, please apply to the Egyptian Consulate in Elat (Tel: (07) 376882), the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv (Tel: (03) 546-4151/2), or your nearest Egyptian diplomatic legation. Egged Bus No. 15 provides regular service from Elat to the Taba Terminal and back (see p. 8 for additional information regarding transportation). Special restrictions apply to the import of organic items from Egypt, such as animal hides, straw products, seeds, foodstuffs and the like.

Customs

The dual-channel customs clearance system is in operation at Israel's airports and at the Rafiah Terminal. Visitors with no goods to declare may pass through the Green Channel on leaving the Arrivals Hall. Persons bringing in other items, even if exempt from duty, must declare them and use the Red Channel.

Green Channel

The following items need not be declared:

- (a) **Personal clothing**, footwear and toilet articles of the types and in quantities customarily carried as part of a traveller's hand baggage.
- (b) **Alcoholic Drinks**: Spirits up to 1 litre and wine up to 2 litres for each person aged at least 17 years.
- (c) **Alcoholic Perfumes** (such as eau de cologne): Up to 1/4 litre per person.
- (d) **Tobacco Products**: Up to 250 grams or 250 cigarettes for each person aged at least 17 years.
- (e) **Gifts**: Various articles, provided they do not include alcoholic drinks, alcoholic perfumes, tobacco products or a television set and whose total value — as determined by the official at the port of importation, according to price lists in his possession and after adding expenses for freight, insurance and port fees in Israel — does not exceed \$150, being non-cumulative, even if brought by persons entering together. A gift worth more than this sum will be fully taxed. Foodstuffs of various kinds up to a total weight of 3 kg. may be included in this category, provided that foodstuffs of each kind do not exceed 1 kg. This exemption applies to individuals arriving alone, including minors, as well as to persons aged at least 17 years arriving as families.

In addition, the following items may be brought in duty-free if

portable and appreciably used:

Typewriter; still and movie cameras (excluding video cameras which must be declared), radio, tape recorder, binoculars, personal jewellery, musical instrument, gramophone, perambulator (baby carriage), camping or sports equipment, bicycle (without auxiliary motor) and similar traveller's effects.

Red Channel

The following items must be declared and require a deposit for duties and taxes, which will be refunded once the items are taken out of Israel upon departure:

Video equipment (camcorder, VCR); personal computer; portable tools, diving equipment, etc.

Note that the value of imported items is determined according to the **official** price lists of the Customs Authorities, irrespective of actual purchase price.

Deposits may be paid by bank draft payable to the Collector of Customs or by foreign credit card of Visa type, or by personal cheque drawn from your bank account up to amount of \$500 in sheqalim.

Animals, plants, firearms, fresh meat and raw materials may **not** be imported into Israel unless a permit has been secured in advance.

A visitor may import a motor vehicle for personal use or purchase one in Israel tax-free, provided he undertakes to re-export it on leaving the country — and no later than one year from the date of its release from customs or purchase. To obtain this exemption, one should present a foreign driving licence and an insurance certificate or 'green card' valid in Israel. For further information, please contact the Department of Customs, 32 Agron Street, 91002 Jerusalem, Tel: (02) 703333.



CURRENCY AND BANK INFORMATION

The currency of Israel is the sheqel (IS), also called the **new sheqel** (NIS) (plural — sheqalim). Each sheqel is divided into 100 **agorot** (singular — agora). Banknotes circulate in

denominations of IS 200, 100, 50, 20 and 10 sheqalim and coins in denominations of 5 sheqalim, 1 sheqel and 50 and 10 agorot. One may bring an unlimited amount of local and foreign currency into Israel in cash, travellers' cheques, letters of

credit or State of Israel Bonds (see below). Foreign currency may be exchanged at any bank and at many hotels.

All purchases and services may be paid for in the following freely exchangeable currencies: Australian Dollars, Austrian Schillings, Belgian Francs, Canadian Dollars, Danish Kroner, Dutch Florins, Finnish Marks, French Francs, German Marks, Hong Kong Dollars, Irish Pounds, Italian Lire, Japanese Yen, New Zealand Dollars, Norwegian Kronor, Pounds Sterling, Singapore Dollars, South African Rands, Spanish Pesetas, Swedish Kroner, Swiss Francs and U.S. Dollars. However, shops or services are not obligated to accept foreign currency and may give change in sheqalim even if payment is tendered in foreign currency. Payment in foreign currency exempts tourists from Value Added Tax (VAT) on certain purchases and services (see *Shopping*, p. 24).

Major credit cards (American Express, Diners' Club, Visa and MasterCard/Access/Eurocard) are widely accepted throughout Israel. Holders of Visa or MasterCard/Access/Eurocard credit cards may withdraw funds at the foreign currency counters of affiliated banks or at certain automated teller machines (ATMs).

Tourists may open local currency accounts or special non-resident foreign currency accounts at any bank, or use their international credit cards to withdraw cash in foreign or local currency at banks honoring the respective cards. Most banks are open from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM Sundays through Thursdays, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 8:30 AM to 12:00 noon on Fridays and eves of major Jewish Holidays. Bank branches in major hotels usually offer convenient additional banking hours.

Sheqalim may be reconverted to foreign currency at airport banks up to a maximum of \$500 or the equivalent in other currencies. Any balance of sheqalim exceeding this sum accrued during a single visit to Israel (up to a maximum of \$5,000) can be reconverted on presentation of bank receipts attesting to the original conversion of foreign currency.

State of Israel Bonds

Tourists who hold State of Israel Bonds — in their own name or endorsed to them — may redeem them at any bank, prior to their date of maturity, for full nominal counter value plus interest, to be remitted in local currency, up to the equivalent of U.S. \$2,500 per month.



The service operates every hour on the hour, from 4:00 AM until midnight.

Buses operated by the Egged Cooperative leave Ben-Gurion Airport every 15 minutes to Tel Aviv (5:00 AM to 10:00 PM), every 30 minutes for Jerusalem (6:30 AM to 8:00 PM) and every 40 minutes for Haifa (6:30 AM to 8:30 PM).

Nesher Taxis operates a shared taxi service between Jerusalem and Ben-Gurion Airport, charging a fixed rate per passenger. For an extra charge, the taxi will pick up passengers and their baggage from anywhere in Jerusalem. For further information, call (02) 253233, 255332, 257227 or 231231, Fax: (02) 241114.

Regular taxi service to virtually anywhere in Israel is available at Government-regulated fares. Passengers are entitled to be shown the official price list (see *Taxis*, p. 22).

Most major car rental agencies have offices at Ben-Gurion Airport.



BEFORE DEPARTURE

Confirming Reservations

Scheduled air departures should be reconfirmed with the airline office at least 72 hours in advance, as reservations may be cancelled

otherwise. Please indicate any special services required (dietary restrictions, etc.) on reconfirmation. For recorded information on flight departure and arrival times, please call (03) 971-2484.

Airline Check-In

Passengers must check in at Ben-Gurion Airport at least two hours before departure time. All departing passengers are required to pay an airport tax (usually added to the price of the ticket).

El Al Israel Airlines offers an advance check-in service in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Elat, enabling passengers

to check in their baggage and receive boarding passes the **evening before** the flight (except on Fridays, major Holidays and eves of Holidays). Baggage will be taken straight to the plane and passengers need arrive at the airport only one hour before departure time. Certain other airlines may provide a similar service. Please ask your travel agent or contact the airline directly.

Security checks are carried out routinely for your protection and safety. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

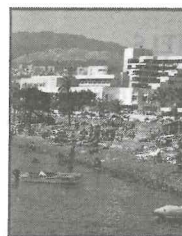


FACILITIES FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Many hotels and public institutions in Israel (including Ben-Gurion International Airport), provide ramps, specially-equipped lavatories, telephones and other conveniences for

the handicapped. *Milbat* — The Advisory Centre for the Disabled at Sheba Medical Centre in Tel Aviv (Tel: (03) 530-3739), will be pleased to answer visitors' questions.

The Yad Sarah Organisation, with branches located throughout Israel, provides wheelchairs, crutches and other medical appliances on loan, free of charge (a small deposit is requested). For more specific information, contact the organisation's main office in Jerusalem, Tel: (02) 244242.



HOTELS

Israel has over 300 hotels, offering a wide choice of accommodations to suit all tastes, purposes and budgets, ranging from small, simple facilities to five-star luxury establishments, with prices varying according to grade and

season. Hotel rates are quoted in U.S. dollars and do not include the 15% service charge.



KIBBUTZ HOTELS

The *kibbutz* (collective village) is a uniquely Israeli social experience, in which all property is collectively-owned and members receive no salaries, but are provided with housing, education for their children, medical services,

social amenities and other necessities. Most are essentially agricultural settlements, but many are shifting to a more industrially-oriented economy. There are about 250 kibbutzim throughout Israel.

Several kibbutzim, mostly in northern and central Israel, have established hotels on the premises, providing visitors with a close view of this world-renowned lifestyle. Kibbutz hotels are graded as three or four-star establishments. They offer guests the opportunity for a relaxed, informal holiday in delightful rural surroundings. Some present special evening programmes about the kibbutz experience. For further information and a special tour of Israel's kibbutzim and kibbutz hotels, contact any Israel Government Tourist Office (IGTO) abroad or Tourist Information Office (TIO) in Israel (see p. 36), or Kibbutz Hotels, 90 Ben-Yehuda Street, P.O. Box 3193, 61031 Tel Aviv, Tel: (03) 524-6161, Fax: (03) 527-8088.



HOLIDAY VILLAGES

Excellent accommodation is available at Israel's holiday resort villages. They offer a wide variety of water sports, including swimming, water-skiing, skin-diving and sailing, as well as horseback riding, tennis, a full touring

programme and evening entertainment. Predominantly geared to the younger set, with emphasis on open-air life and informality, most villages are open during the summer months only.



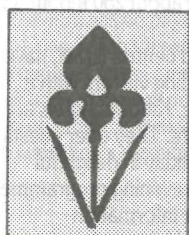
YOUTH HOSTELS

The Israel Youth Hostels Association (IYHA), affiliated with the International Youth Hostels Association, operates some 30 youth hostels throughout the country for guests of all ages. All offer dormitory accommodations and most

also provide meals and self-service kitchen facilities. Some hostels also provide family accommodation for parents accompanied by at least one child. Individual reservations should be booked directly at specific hostels and group reservations with the IYHA.

The IYHA also arranges individual package tours, called 'Israel on the Youth Hostel Trail,' for 14, 21 or 28 days. These include nights in any of 25 hostels, with breakfast and dinner, unlimited bus travel, a half-day guided tour, free admission to National Parks, a map and other informative material.

For further information, contact the Israel Youth Hostels Association, 3 Dorot Rishonim Street, 91009 Jerusalem, Tel: (02) 252706, FAX: (02) 250676. A youth hostels brochure is available at all IGTOs and TIOs (see p. 36).



FIELD SCHOOLS

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) operates a system of 26 field schools throughout Israel, each specialising in the natural history and ecology of its environment. Most also have overnight

accommodations for visitors, including a dining room and other services. The field schools, generally located far from densely-populated regions, also offer a wide variety of unconventional, enlightening and scenic desert and mountain tours. For further information and bookings, contact the SPNI Tourist Service, 4 Hashefela Street, 66183 Tel Aviv, Tel: (03) 537-4425. FAX: (03) 383940.



CAMPING

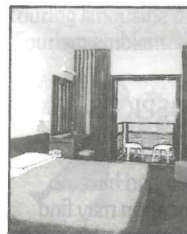
Israel's outstanding campsites, situated throughout the country, are ideal bases for regional touring. They offer full sanitary facilities, electric current, restaurants and/or food shops, telephones, postal services, first aid,

shaded picnic and campfire areas, on-site or nearby swimming and round-the-clock security.

All campgrounds have special areas for pitching tents, as well as cabins for hire. Most have caravans available and some offer rooms to let. They can be reached by bus, but all are open to private cars and caravans.

Campsites offer purchase vouchers for 7, 14, 21 and 28 day programmes, entitling participants to overnights at 16 campgrounds all over Israel (in tents, cabins, caravans or vacation cottages), a continental breakfast and unlimited bus travel or auto rental discounts.

For site locations, rates, bookings and other details, contact the Israel Camping Organisation, 22100 Nahariyya. Tel: (04) 925392. A camping leaflet is available at any IGTO or TIO (see p. 36).



ROOMS FOR RENT

An increasing number of Israel's rural settlements (kibbutzim and moshavim) are supplementing their incomes by offering rooms for rent at reasonable prices. Please contact your nearest IGTO or TIO (see p. 36) for up-to-date

information.



HEALTH RESORTS

A rare combination of unique therapeutic factors — the mineral-rich Dead Sea, therapeutic mud, sulphur thermal mineral springs and a mild, sunny and extremely dry climate — have made certain areas of Israel

excellent year-round health resorts, internationally renowned since ancient times.

Most health resorts are centred in two areas: the Sea of Galilee (-220 m. or -655 ft.) and the Dead Sea (-392 m. or -1,286 ft.).

Offering a wide range of accommodations and equipped with modern facilities, they provide a choice of treatments for a variety of ailments and conditions:

The Tiberias Hot Springs, on the Sea of Galilee, for treatment of muscular and joint diseases, traumatic disturbances and sinusitis.

Zohar Hot Springs — Three therapeutic centres at Neve Zohar on the Dead Sea, for the treatment of muscular and joint diseases, traumatic disturbances, allergies (especially those affecting breathing passages) and skin diseases.

Yesha Hot Springs — On the Dead Sea, south of Kibbutz En

Gedi, for the treatment of muscular and joint diseases.

En Bokek — On the Dead Sea, an international centre for the treatment of psoriasis.

Arad — A desert town in the Judean Hills, 620 m. (2,034 ft.) above sea level, about half an hour from the Dead Sea. Arad's cool, dry and pollen-free air make it an ideal resort for people suffering from asthma, allergies and breathing difficulties.

Hame Yoav Thermal Mineral Baths: A recently-opened health spa at Kibbutz Sde Yoav, near Ashqelon. A constant stream of water rich in health-promoting minerals flows into a series of shallow pools, providing comfortable bathing facilities at varying temperatures. Tel: (07) 721245.

A special booklet and further information are available at IGTOs and TIOs (see p. 36).



CHRISTIAN HOSPICES

Christian pilgrims who arrive in Jerusalem late at night and have no prearranged accommodation may find board and lodging, at reasonable prices, in hospices of various denominations.

For information contact the Jerusalem IGTO, 24 King George Street, Jerusalem, Tel: (02) 754888). Additional information on hospices and church services may be obtained from IGTOs and TIOs (see p. 36) or the Israel Pilgrimage Committee, P.O.Box 1018, 91009 Jerusalem.



ORGANISED TOURS

Numerous organised tours, mostly in air-conditioned buses or minibuses, are conducted by licenced tour operators. Itineraries and prices are determined in accordance with Ministry of Tourism guidelines to ensure a full sightseeing

programme in maximum comfort. Half-day, full-day and longer tours are available, some combining flying with road travel. Tours depart regularly from major cities, as well as from popular resort areas during peak season. All organised tours are accompanied by experienced, licenced, multilingual guides, identified by an official emblem bearing the words "Licenced Tourist Guide."

Smaller groups may hire a licenced driver-guide and a special touring limousine or minibus, identified by the red Ministry of Tourism emblem.



Full details of itineraries, prices, schedules and the like are available at travel agencies, tour companies, IGTOs and TIOs (see p. 36).

Major public institutions and organisations, such as WIZO, Hadassah, universities and the Knesset (Parliament), conduct **free** guided tours of their facilities. Walking tours of the larger cities are arranged by the municipalities. Further information is available at any IGTO or TIO (see p. 36).



ON YOUR OWN — INLAND TRANSPORTATION

Buses

Buses are the most popular means of transport throughout Israel for both urban and inter-city travel. The Egged

Bus Cooperative operates nearly all inter-city bus lines, providing urban service in most cities and towns as well (the greater Tel Aviv area is serviced by the Dan Cooperative and independent bus companies operate in Be'er Sheva and Nazareth). Fares are reasonably-priced and service is regular. Most bus lines do not operate on the Sabbath (Friday evening to Saturday night) and on major Jewish Holidays (see "The

Sabbath and Holidays," p. 26).

Students are eligible for discount fares on interurban bus routes on presentation of an International Student Card. Special monthly tickets are available for Egged's urban bus lines, as well as "Israbus" passes, valid on all Egged bus lines, for periods of 7, 14, 21 and 30 days. Tickets may be obtained at any Egged Tours office.

For information concerning schedules, fares, routes, etc., call Egged's toll-free number — 177-022-5555 — from anywhere in Israel.

Taxis

Most taxis (called 'special' taxis in the local vernacular) are equipped with two-way radios and may be summoned by telephone or hailed directly in the street. **All urban taxis are equipped with meters and are required by law to operate them.** There are three distinct fare schedules, as indicated on the meter: (0) Telephone surcharge (to passenger pick-up point); (1) Regular fare and (2) Fare + 25% surcharge for night (9:00 PM to 5:30 AM) and Sabbath and holiday service. Interurban fares follow an official price list which the driver must present on request. Passengers may request a printed receipt after paying the fare.

Shared taxi (Hebrew: *sherut*) service, at a fixed price per passenger, is available between major cities and on certain urban routes as well.

Complaints regarding taxi service may be addressed to the nearest office of the Controller of Road Transport:

Tel Aviv and Central Region:

29 Yehuda Hayamit Street, 68134 Yafo, Tel: (03) 821351.

Jerusalem and the South:

97 Jaffa Road (Box 867), 91008 Jerusalem, Tel: (02) 319550

Haifa and the North:

121 Jaffa Road, (Box 9794), 31097 Haifa, Tel: (04) 536711.

Railways

Israel Railways provides regular service between Tel Aviv and Herzliyya, Netanya, Hadera, Haifa, Akko (Acre) and Nahariyya, as well as a daily train between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, which follows a particularly beautiful scenic route. Reserved seats may be ordered in advance. All passenger trains include a buffet car. There is no railway service on Sabbaths and major Holidays. For the latest schedule and fares, call (03) 542-1515 in Tel Aviv or (04) 564564 in Haifa.

Domestic Flights

Arkia Israel Airlines Ltd. operates scheduled flights from the following locations:

Jerusalem to Tel Aviv, Haifa, Rosh Pina and Elat.
Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Rosh Pina, Elat and Mezada (Masada).

Haifa to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Elat.

Elat to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa.

Mezada (Masada) to Tel Aviv.

For schedules, fares and reservations, call Arkia at (03) 690-2222.

Snunit Aviation offers three daily flights in 19-seater aircraft between Tel Aviv and Mahanayim Airport (near Kiryat Shmona). Tel: (03) 699-3184.

Auto Rental

Most major international auto rental companies and several local ones have offices in Israel's major cities and at Ben-Gurion Airport. Advance reservations are recommended (vehicles may be reserved abroad). To rent a car, one must be over 21 years of age and in possession of a valid national or international driving licence and an international credit card.



SHOPPING

Several hundred shops throughout the country have been recommended by the Ministry of Tourism for their high-quality merchandise and superior service. Such establishments display

the following emblem:



These shops and others carry a wide variety of suggested gifts, ranging from exclusive jewellery and diamonds to Oriental carpets; from fashionable ladies' wear to elegant furs; from smart leather goods to modern paintings; antiques and contemporary ceramics, as well as embroidery, batiks and countless other items. Visitors will also find all daily necessities readily available.

Colourful Oriental markets and bazaars may be found in the Old City of Jerusalem and in several other towns and villages. The unique variety of goods available includes hand-made items of olive wood, mother-of-pearl, leather and straw, as well as hand-blown glass and exotic clothing.

There are duty-free shops at Ben-Gurion, Elat and Ovda International Airports.

Shopping Hours

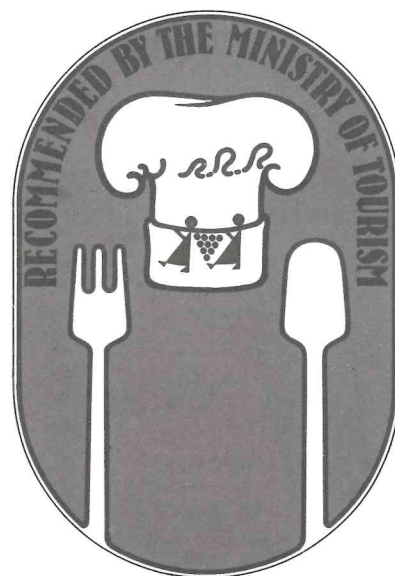
Most shops are open daily, Sunday through Thursday, from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, although some close for a mid-day break between 1:00 and 4:00 PM. On Fridays and the eves of major Jewish Holidays, shops are open in the morning and close early in the afternoon. Moslem-owned establishments are closed on Fridays and Christian shops on Sundays.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

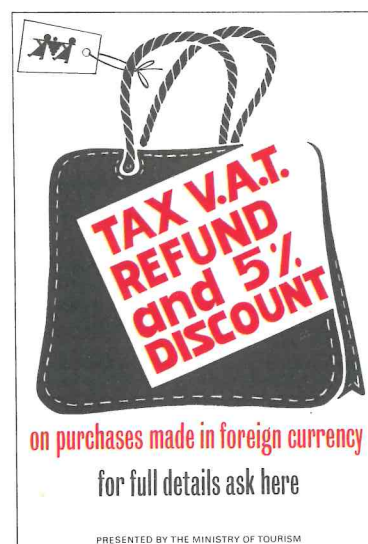
A value added tax (17% in 1993) is levied on all goods and services and is included in the quoted price.

Tourists are exempt from VAT on the following services if paid for in foreign currency: accommodation (hotels, youth hostels, field schools and camping); organised tours; tourist car hire with driver-guide; car rental; flights and tours operated by inland aviation companies; meals provided by tour operators during organised tours; meals eaten in hotel restaurants by guests (and included in the hotel bill).

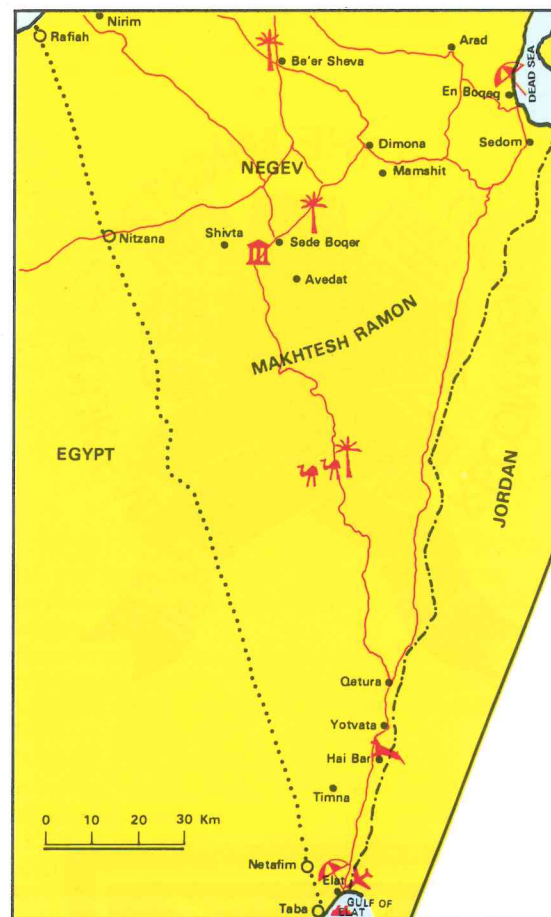
EMBLEM DISPLAYED BY RESTAURANTS



EMBLEM DISPLAYED BY SHOPS

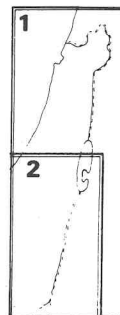


MAIN TOURIST LANDMARKS



○ Border Check Point

The demarcation of several points along the international boundary with Egypt is in the process of resolution between the two states.



EMBLEM DISPLAYED BY SHOPS



All goods and services purchased by tourists in Elat are exempt from VAT.

Foreign Currency Discounts and VAT Refunds

Tourists who purchase goods (with foreign currency) exceeding \$50 in value at shops recommended by the Ministry of Tourism are entitled to a discount of at least 5% off the purchase price at the shop and a VAT refund at the port of departure. Establishments offering this service display this sign:



This arrangement does not apply to tobacco products, electrical appliances, cameras, film or other photographic supplies.

Please be sure to obtain an invoice/receipt from the shop, indicating the amount of VAT paid. This invoice and the goods purchased should be placed in a transparent bag and sealed. The seal may not be broken until departure.

On arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport or the Haifa Port, please refer to the Bank Leumi official in the departure lounge. The official will open the sealed bag, verify the contents, stamp the invoice and refund the VAT in U.S. dollars (rounded to the nearest dollar) less commission.

At other departure points, the Customs official will stamp the invoice and the refund will be sent to your address abroad, as indicated on the invoice.

Antiques

Antiques are defined by law as man-made objects fashioned before 1700 AD. Such items may not be taken out of Israel (whether personally or by mail) without the written approval of the Director of the Antiquities Authority. A 10% export fee is levied on the purchase price. Please note that the Authority cannot accept responsibility for authenticity of antiques. For further details, contact:

The Antiquities Authority
Rockefeller Museum
P.O. Box 586
91004 Jerusalem
Tel: (02) 292627; (02) 292607
FAX: (02) 292628



FOOD AND RESTAURANTS

Cuisine

Israel's many fine restaurants, snack bars and fast food establishments offer the widest possible variety of exotic and familiar dishes. Traditional Middle

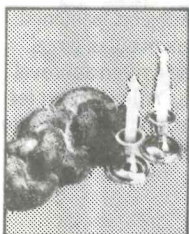
Eastern delights vie for popularity with exquisite Continental collations, not to mention the ever-present hot dogs, hamburgers and pizza. Fruits and vegetables are plentiful all year round, a wide range of dairy products is available to please every palate and the local wines and spirits are world-renowned for their superior quality and delicate flavour. Menus are generally printed in Hebrew and English. Restaurants are required by law to display prices prominently at the entrance to the premises. If a service charge is not included in the bill, a 10% tip is generally recommended.

Special Diets

Hotels and restaurants cater to visitors with special dietary restrictions, such as low-salt or low-fat diets, vegetarian meals, etc. Health food shops may be found in major cities and many packaged products carry precise nutritional data. Tap water in Israel is perfectly safe for drinking.

Keeping Kosher

According to Jewish ritual law, certain foods, such as pork and shellfish, are prohibited, and meat and dairy products cannot be served at the same meal. Food which conforms with these restrictions is called 'kosher.' Although many hotels and restaurants — and all major supermarket chains — do adhere to these dietary laws, non-kosher food and restaurant meals are generally available in most parts of Israel.



THE SABBATH AND HOLIDAYS

The Sabbath (Hebrew: Shabbat), Israel's day of rest, commences at sundown on Friday evening and concludes at nightfall on Saturday.

Jewish holidays also commence on the preceding evening and end at night. All (Jewish) shops, businesses, offices and institutions are closed on the Sabbath and major Holidays. Most public transport ceases and many places of entertainment close as well, although taxi service

is available and some restaurants, cinemas and nightclubs remain open.

The Hebrew calendar is based on the lunar year, and Jewish Holidays fall on different Gregorian dates each year (see Table 2: *Jewish Holidays: 1993-1997* in the Ready Reference Guide, p. 42).



THE ARTS

A monthly calendar of performances, exhibitions and events is available at TIOs (see p. 36) and at major hotels.

Museums, Art Galleries and Artists' Colonies

Both modern and classical works are on display at Israel's numerous museums and art galleries. Major museums include: *Jerusalem*: The Israel Museum, including the Shrine of the Book, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Tel Aviv: The Tel Aviv Museum; The Museum of the Jewish Diaspora (Beth Hatefutsoth); The Eretz-Israel Museum complex.

Haifa: The Maritime Museum; The Museum Centre, specialising in ancient and modern art and ethnology. Scores of other museums in urban areas and rural villages display local archaeological finds, ancient glass, coins, folk costumes and natural history collections, as well as contemporary art and hundreds of other fascinating items. Artists' colonies have developed in En Hod village (near Haifa), Zefat (Safed) and Yafo (Jaffa), with picturesque studios open to the public. In Jerusalem, there is a small artists' colony in the Yemin Moshe quarter, while Huzot Hayozer and the Jerusalem House of Quality feature studios and a wide variety of art galleries and crafts shops.

Concerts

The renowned Israel Philharmonic Orchestra performs under the baton of distinguished conductors and features world-famous guest artists. The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra offers a weekly concert during the winter season. Other frequently-performing ensembles include the Haifa Symphony Orchestra, The Ramat Gan Orchestra, the Israel Sinfonietta of Be'er Sheva and the Israel Chamber Ensemble, as well as several outstanding trios and quartets.

Theatre

The Habimah and Cameri Theatres of Tel Aviv, the Haifa Municipal Theatre and other companies perform throughout the country. Their repertoires comprise a variety of classical and contemporary works translated into Hebrew, as well as original Israeli dramas. Simultaneous translation into English is available at some performances (at extra cost). Smaller companies often stage productions in English, Yiddish, Russian and other languages.

Dance

Israel has three major dance troupes: the Israel Classical Ballet and two modern dance companies, Bat-Sheva and Bat-Dor, which perform regularly throughout the country.

Festivals

The Israel Festival, centred in Jerusalem, takes place each spring, with the participation of the country's leading musical and dramatic talent and world-famous visiting companies and artists.

The En Gev Music Festival is held during the Intermediate Days of Passover at Kibbutz En Gev on the Sea of Galilee. Elat, too, holds an annual festival, highlighted by water sports and moonlight pageants, as well as a summer jazz festival. Other events include the annual Carmiel Folk Dance Festival, the triennial International Harp Contest and the Zimriya (International Choir Festival), as well as the Rubinstein Piano Competition, which brings talented young artists from all over the world to Israel.

For further information, consult the Calendar of Events available at TIOs (see p. 36) and most hotels.



ENTERTAINMENT

Nightclubs and Discotheques

Tel Aviv, Israel's round-the-clock city, is the country's main nightlife centre, but nightclubs and discotheques are popular in other parts of the country as well. Some have regular floor shows, while others offer more informal entertainment, with rock, jazz, folk and pop music for your dancing and listening pleasure.

Radio and Television

Radio programmes are broadcast daily in English, Arabic, French, Yiddish, Russian and other languages. There are three daily news programmes in English and French.

Many of the programmes shown on Israel TV are in English, with Hebrew and Arabic subtitles. The IBA News in English is screened nightly on the First Channel at 5:30 PM.

The Second Channel features the MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, Nightline and a CNN news roundup. For up-to-date information, consult the listings in the daily newspapers.

Cinema

There are cinemas in virtually all cities and towns in Israel, most of which present three performances a day: at approximately 4:00, 7:00 and 9:00 PM. Hebrew films are subtitled in English and French, while foreign films maintain their original soundtrack, with Hebrew and English (or French) titles.



RECREATION

Sports

The Mediterranean coast, the Red Sea beaches of Elat and the Sea of Galilee are ideal for **water sports**: swimming, surfing, sailing, diving, para-sailing and water-skiing. All major hotels have swimming pools and there are municipal and private pools all over the country. Swimming season lasts all year in Israel: from April to October along the Mediterranean coast and at the Sea of Galilee and throughout the year along the Dead Sea shore and at the Red Sea coast. **Visitors are advised to swim only at authorised bathing beaches, which have lifeguard stations and employ colour-coded flags to indicate swimming safety (white — safe; red — dangerous; black — absolutely forbidden).**

Scuba diving and snorkeling are especially popular along the Gulf of Elat; diving centres in Elat hire equipment and provide instruction. **Fishing** gear can be hired at the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. Please be advised that the Red Sea is a protected area and fishing is therefore restricted to certain locations only.

The Israel **Tennis** Centre in Ramat Hasharon, near Tel Aviv, has helped place Israel on the international tennis map. Public tennis courts may be found in many cities and towns and several hotels feature tennis courts as well. There is a fine 18-hole **golf course** at Caesarea and **horseback riding** clubs may be found in Arad, Be'er Sheva, Caesarea, Elat, Netanya, Vered Hagalil, Jerusalem and other locations. **Skiing** on the slopes of Mt. Hermon is a favourite winter sport.

Marches, races and swimming meets are organised by various local sports clubs. One annual sports highlight is the colourful and high-spirited **Jerusalem March**, in which thousands of Israelis and overseas visitors participate, either as individuals or in groups.

Israel's most popular spectator sports are football (soccer) and basketball.

For Nature Lovers

Jerusalem's Biblical Zoo specialises in animals mentioned in the Bible. The Ramat Gan Zoo (near Tel Aviv) includes a Safari Park. Other zoos and animal corners may be found in parks throughout Israel.

Elat boasts one of the few underwater observatories in the world.

Israel's numerous nature reserves offer the visitor an unspoiled view of the region's indigenous vegetation and local and migratory wildlife. Israel is a paradise for birdwatchers in springtime, as so many species pass through the country en route to summer nesting places in Asia and Africa. The Hai Bar Nature Reserve, just north of Elat, is dedicated to restoring Biblical fauna to the region.

For further information, contact the Nature Reserves Authority, 78 Yirmiyahu Street, 94467 Jerusalem, Tel: (02) 387471.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) conducts a variety of scenic nature tours. For information and bookings, contact the SPNI Tourist Service, 4 Hashefela Street, 66183 Tel Aviv, Tel: (03) 337-5063, FAX: (03) 383940.



SPECIAL PROGRAMMES FOR TOURISTS

Folklore Evenings

Don't miss the delightful folklore evenings, which portray the spirit of ancient and modern Israel in song and dance. Programmes are presented regularly in major cities and resort areas. Contact your nearest TIO (see p. 36) for details.

Meet the Israeli

The best way to get to know the people of Israel is to meet them as guests in their own homes. Many Israeli families are happy to extend hospitality to tourists, welcoming the visitors with refreshments and lively conversation. Visitors and their hosts can be matched for common interests (professional, cultural, etc.). Home hospitality requests may be arranged in advance at any TIO (see p. 36).

Plant a Tree With Your Own Hands

Tree-planting centres have been established by the Jewish National Fund at several locations throughout Israel. For a nominal contribution, visitors may plant trees and

receive a certificate and pin to commemorate the event. For further information, contact the Jewish National Fund, P.O. Box 283, 91002 Jerusalem, Tel: (02) 707432/3 or 96 Hayarkon Street, 63432 Tel Aviv, Tel: (03) 234449 or 234367.



ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANISATIONS

Israel Pilgrimage Committee

The Israel Pilgrimage Committee provides lectures on various topics for Christian pilgrims and visitors' groups.

Details are available from the Pilgrimage Promotion Division, Ministry of Tourism, 23 Hillel Street, 94262 Jerusalem, Tel: (02) 754811 or 257456, FAX: (02) 254226.

Voluntary Tourist Service

The Voluntary Tourist Service offers advice and guidance for visitors, supplementing the assistance available at TIOs. They also assist visitors who are ill or injured and arrange hospitality programmes at Israeli homes. This service has nearly 500 members and is active in all major cities and resort areas. V.T.S. desks may be found at the Arrivals Hall of Ben-Gurion International Airport and in the lobbies of major hotels.

International Associations

Many world-wide organisations have chapters in Israel and extend a warm welcome to overseas visitors at their regular meetings. B'nai Brith, Freemasons, Rotary, Soroptimists, Lions, Skal, WIZO and Hadassah are some of the well-known organisations represented.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Medical Care

Dial 101 in most major urban areas for emergency or first aid assistance, provided by Magen David Adom (the Red Star of David - Israel's

equivalent of the Red Cross). Medical assistance of a high professional standard is obtainable at all times; most doctors speak English and other foreign languages. The daily press (including foreign-language newspapers) carries daily listings of duty rosters for emergency hospitals, dental clinics and pharmacies open at night and on weekends and holidays.

Other medical services include:

- Intensive care ambulance service: Tel Aviv — (03) 546-0111; Jerusalem (02) 523133; Haifa (04) 522222.
- Shahal, a private intensive care service for heart patients serving the Greater Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem metropolitan areas. Tel: (03) 562-5555.
- Eran Mental Health Hotline: Tel Aviv — (03) 546-1111, Jerusalem — (02) 610303, Haifa — (04) 672222.
- Psagot Emergency Psychiatric and Neurological Care — Tel: (03) 728105.

Police

Dial 100 to reach the police in most major cities. The Tourist Police, a special division of the Israel Police with branches in the larger cities and resort areas, handles matters of concern to visitors.

Fire

Dial 102 to report a fire in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem or Haifa.



POSTAL SERVICE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Postal Service

International postal, telephone and telegraph charges conform with International Postal Union tariffs; listings are available at all post offices. Post offices are closed

on the Sabbath and major Holidays. Most post offices are open from 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM and 3:30 to 6:30 PM Sundays through Thursdays (except Wednesdays); Wednesdays from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM only; Fridays and eves of major Holidays from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon.

All central post offices offer general delivery (*poste restante*) service. Visitors may receive mail addressed to them c/o *Poste Restante*, followed by the name of the locality.

Postal Giros (money orders) may be exchanged at the Postal Bank counter of any post office.

Overseas Express Mail Service (EMS) to most countries is available for both letters and parcels, with delivery guaranteed within 72 hours.

Telephones

Public telephones are operated by tokens (Hebrew: *asimonim*), available at post offices, from private vendors and automatic vending machines. Some public telephones are operated by magnetic cards, sold at post offices. Telephones in shops and restaurants are often available for public use at a higher cost than the equivalent price of tokens. Long distance and overseas calls can be booked at your hotel or at the following International Phone Centers:

Jerusalem: 3 Koresh Street (236 Jaffa Road)
Hours: Sunday-Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Tel Aviv: 13 Frishman Street
Hours: Sunday-Thursday 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM
Saturday: 6:30 PM to midnight

If you have a telephone company credit card or wish to make a collect call overseas, direct toll-free service is available to international operators in the following countries:

Austria	177-430-2727
Brazil	177-550-2727
Canada	177-105-2727
Denmark	177-450-2727
Finland	177-358-2727
France	177-330-2727
Hungary	177-360-2727
Italy	177-390-2727
Japan	177-810-2727
Netherlands	177-310-2727
Norway	177-470-2727
Portugal	177-351-2727

Sweden	177-460-2727
UK BT	177-440-2727
AT&T USA Direct	177-100-2727
MCI Call USA	177-150-2727
US SPRINT Sprint Express	177-102-2727

For an up-to-date list of countries to which this service is provided, please call 144.

Overseas collect calls may also be placed from many public telephones.

The international dialling prefix for Israel is 972. When direct-dialling Israel from overseas, please omit the '0' in the local area code. For example, to call (02) 111111 from abroad, dial the relevant international access code, followed by 972-2-111111.

English-language telephone directories are published every three years and may be consulted at main post offices in major cities.

Fax, Telegraph and Telex

On weekdays, central telegraph offices are open 24 hours a day in Tel Aviv (7 Mikve Israel Street — open on Sabbaths and holidays as well), Jerusalem (23 Jaffa Road), Haifa (22 Haneviim Street) and Be'er Sheva (9 Hanesiim Boulevard), providing telegraph, telex and facsimile (Fax) service. 7:30 AM to 7:00 PM (9 Hanesiim Boulevard).

Tourist Information Offices (TIOs) in Israel

Akko (Acre): Eljazzar St. (opposite Mosque)
tel: 177-022-7764, 04-991-1764

Arad: Visitors' Centre (opposite Community Centre)
28 Elazar Ben Ya'ir St., tel: 07-954-409, 07-955-866

Ashdod: 4 Haim Moshe Shapira St., Rova Daled,
tel: 08-640-485, 08-640-090

Ashqelon: Municipality of Ashqelon, tel: 07-770-173/4

Bat Yam: 43 Ben-Gurion Avenue,
tel: 03-507-2777, fax: 03-596-666

Ben-Gurion International Airport: tel: 03-971-1485

Bethlehem: Manger Square
tel: 02-741-581-3, fax: 02-743-753

Eilat: Arava Highway Corner, Yotam Rd.
tel: 07-372-111, 07-374-233, fax: 07-376-763

Haifa: 18 Herzl Boulevard
tel: 04-666-521/2, 04-654-692, fax: 04-622-075

Jerusalem: 17 Jaffa Rd., Tel: 02-258-844

Nahariya: 19 Ga'aton Boulevard
tel: 04-987-9800, fax: 04-992-2303

Nazareth: Casanova St.
tel: 06-570-555, 06-573-003, fax: 06-573-078

Netanya: Kikar ha'Atzmaut
tel: 09-827-286

Safed: 50 Jerusalem St., tel: 06-920-961, 06-920-633

Tiberias: HaBanim St., The Archaeological Park,
tel: 06-725-666

BORDER CROSSINGS

JORDAN: Allenby Bridge: tel: 02-941-038

Arava: tel: 07-336-811

Jordan River: tel: 06-586-410, 06-586-392
fax: 06-586-421

EGYPT: Rafiah (Rafah): tel: 07-734-080

Taba: tel: 07-372-104, 07-373-110

Israel Government Tourist Offices (IGTOs) Abroad

EUROPE

■ AUSTRIA

Offizielles Israelisches Verkehrsbureau
Rossauer Laende 41/12, A-1090 Wien
Tel: 1-310-8174 Fax: 1-310-3917

■ DENMARK

Den Israelske Stats Turistbureau
Vesterbrogade 6D, 1620 Copenhagen V
Tel: 33-119-711, 33-129-680 Fax: 33-914-801

■ FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Staatliches Israelisches Verkehrsbureau
Bettinastr. 62, 60325 Frankfurt/Main M
Tel: 69-752-084 Fax: 69-746-249

Staatliches Israelisches Verkehrsbureau
Repraesentanz fuer Norddeutschland
Kurfuerstendamm 202, 10719 Berlin
Tel: 30-881-9685, 30-883-6759 Fax: 30-882-4093

Staatliches Israelisches Verkehrsbureau
Stollbergstr. 6, 80539 Muenchen
Tel: 89-228-9568 Fax: 89-228-9569

■ FRANCE

Office National Israelien de Tourisme
22 Rue des Capucines, 75002 Paris
Tel: 1-426-101-97, 1-426-103-67 Fax: 1-492-709-46

■ HOLLAND

Israelisch Nationaal Verkeersbureau
Wijde Kapelsteeg 2 (hoek Rokin), 1012 NS Amsterdam
Tel: 20-624-9325 Fax: 20-624-2651

■ HUNGARY

Nemzeti Idegenforgalmi Kepviselet
Israeli Nagykovetseg
H-1026 Budapest, Fullank U. 8
Tel: 1-176-7896/7 Fax: 1-176-0534

■ ITALY

Ufficio Nazionale Israeliano del Turismo
Corso Europa 12, 20122 Milano
Tel: 2-760-210-51 Fax: 2-760-124-77

■ SPAIN

Oficina Nacional Israeli de Turismo
Gran Via 69, 28013 Madrid
Tel: 1-559-7903 Fax: 1-542-6511

■ SWEDEN

Israeliska Statens Turistbyrå
Sveavägen 28-30, 4 tr.
Box 7554, 10393 Stockholm
Tel: 8-213-386/7 Fax: 8-217-814

■ SWITZERLAND

Offizielles Israelisches Verkehrsbureau
Lintheschergasse 12, 8021 Zurich
Tel: 1-211-2344/5 Fax: 1-212-2036

■ UNITED KINGDOM

Israel Government Tourist Office
18 Great Marlborough St., London W1V 1AF
Tel: 71-434-3651 Fax: 71-437-0527

NORTH AMERICA

North American Tourism Commissioner
(same address as New York office)
Tel: 212-560-0738

U.S.A.

■ NEW YORK

Israel Government Tourist Office
19th Floor, 350 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10118
Tel: 212-560-0639, 212-560-0600 Fax: 212-629-4368

■ CHICAGO

Israel Government Tourist Office
5 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60603-3073
Tel: 312-782-4306 Fax: 312-782-1243

■ ATLANTA

Israel Government Tourist Office
1100 Spring St. N.W. Suite 440
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
Tel: 404-875-9924, 404-875-9925 Fax: 404-875-9926

■ DALLAS

Israel Government Tourist Office
12700 Park Central Drive
Dallas, Texas 75251
Tel: 214-991-9097/8 Fax: 214-392-3521

■ LOS ANGELES

Israel Government Tourist Office
6380 Wilshire Boulevard #1700
Los Angeles, California 90048
Tel: 213-658-7462/3 Fax: 213-658-6543

CANADA

■ TORONTO

Israel Government Tourist Office
180 Bloor Street West, Suite 700
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2V6
Tel: 416-964-3784 Fax: 416-964-2420

AFRICA

■ JOHANNESBURG

Israel Government Tourist Office
5th Floor, Nedbank Gardens
33 Bath Avenue, Rosebank 2196
P.O. Box 52560, Saxonwold 2132, Johannesburg
Tel: 11-788-1703/4 Fax: 11-447-3104

FAR EAST

■ JAPAN

Israel Government Tourist Office
Kojimachi Sanbancho Mansion 406
9-1 Sanbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102
Tel: 3-3238-9081
Fax: 3-3238-9077

■ KOREA

Israel Government Tourist Office
Room 36, Leema Bldg, Suite 400
146-1 Susong-dong, Chongro-ku, Seoul, 110-140
Tel: 2-733-1021 ext. 167 Fax: 2-736-5193

■ AUSTRALIA

Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce
Tourism Department
395 New South Head Road
Double Bay, Sydney, N.S.W. 2028
Tel: 2-326-1700 Fax: 2-326-1676

T ABLES:

Table 1: **Average Temperatures**

		Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Jerusalem	C	6-11	7-14	8-16	12-21	15-25	17-27	19-29	19-29	18-28	16-26	12-19	8-14
	F	43-53	44-57	47-61	53-69	60-77	63-81	66-84	66-86	65-82	60-78	54-67	47-56
Tel Aviv	C	9-18	9-19	10-20	12-22	17-25	19-28	21-30	22-30	20-31	15-28	12-25	9-19
	F	49-65	48-66	51-69	54-72	63-77	67-83	70-86	72-86	69-89	59-83	54-76	47-66
Haifa	C	8-17	9-18	8-21	13-26	15-25	18-28	20-30	21-30	20-30	16-27	13-23	9-18
	F	46-63	47-64	47-70	55-78	58-76	64-82	68-86	70-86	68-85	60-81	56-74	48-65
Tiberias	C	9-18	9-20	11-22	13-27	17-32	20-35	23-37	24-37	22-35	19-32	15-26	11-20
	F	48-65	49-67	51-72	56-80	62-89	68-95	73-98	75-99	71-95	65-89	59-78	53-68
Elat	C	10-21	11-23	13-26	17-31	21-35	24-37	25-40	26-40	24-36	20-33	16-28	11-23
	F	49-70	51-73	56-79	63-87	69-95	75-99	77-103	79-104	75-98	69-92	61-83	51-74
Dead Sea	C	114-20	132-22	162-253	199-293	236-338	268-373	282-389	286-383	272-356	236-32	183-266	132-215
	F	53-68	56-72	61-78	68-85	75-93	80-99	83-102	83-101	81-96	75-90	65-80	56-71

Table 2: **Jewish Holidays**

Note: Major holidays are marked with an asterisk (*).

Holiday	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day)	February 6	January 27	January 16	February 5	January 23
Purim (Feast of Lots)	March 7	February 25	March 16	March 5	March 23
1st Day of Pesah* (Passover)	April 6	March 27	April 15	April 4	April 22
7th Day of Pesah*	April 12	April 3	April 21	April 10	April 28
Israel Independence Day	April 26	April 14	May 4	April 24	May 12
Jerusalem Liberation Day	May 19	May 9	May 28	May 17	June 4
Shavu'ot* (Pentecost)	May 26	May 16	June 4	May 24	June 11
Tisha B'Av (Ninth of Av Fast)	July 27	July 17	August 6	July 25	August 12
Rosh Hashana (two days)* (New Year)	September 16-17	September 6-7	September 25-26	September 14-15	October 2-3
Yom Kippur* (Day of Atonement)	September 25	September 15	October 4	September 23	October 10
1st Day of Sukkot* (Tabernacles)	September 30	September 20	October 9	September 28	October 16
Simhat Torah* (Rejoicing of the Law)	October 7	September 27	October 16	October 5	October 23
1st Day of Hanukkah (Feast of Lights)	December 9	November 28	December 18	December 6	December 24

Table 3: Road Distances

	Jerusalem		Tel Aviv			Haifa		Tiberias		Be'er Sheva	
	km.	mi.	km.	mi.		km.	mi.	km.	mi.	km.	mi.
Afula	146	91	91	57		41	25	41	25	206	128
Akko (Acre)	181	112	117	73		22	14	56	35	232	144
Arad	104	65	158	98		255	158	232	144	45	28
Ashqelon	73	45	63	39		160	99	197	22	67	42
Be'er Sheva	84	52	113	70		210	130	236	147	—	—
Bet She'an	120	70	117	73		67	42	37	23	198	123
Elat	312	194	354	220		451	280	403	250	241	150
Haifa	159	99	95	56		—	—	69	43	210	130
Hebron	35	22	97	60		194	120	186	116	50	31
Jericho	39	24	101	63		148	92	118	73	117	73
Jerusalem	—	—	62	39		159	99	157	97	84	52
Metulla	221	137	196	122		121	75	65	40	301	187
Mezada (Masada)	109	66	169	104		261	161	183	113	64	39
Nazareth	157	97	102	63		35	22	29	18	217	135
Netanya	93	58	29	18		66	41	103	64	144	89
Rehovot	53	33	24	15		121	75	158	98	83	52
Rosh Haniqra	201	125	137	85		42	26	76	47	252	157
Tel Aviv	62	39	—	—		95	59	132	82	113	70
Tiberias	157	97	132	82		69	43	—	—	236	147
Zefat (Safed)	192	120	168	104		72	45	36	22	272	169

Table 4: Clothing Sizes

Suits, Overcoats, Pyjamas											
Israel and Europe	46	48	50	52	54	56	58				
U.K. and U.S.A.	36	38	40	42	44	46	48				
Shirts											
Israel and Europe	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43			
U.K. and U.S.A.	14	14-1/2	15	15-1/2	15-3/4	16	16-1/2	17			
Sweaters											
Israel and Europe	44	46	48	50	52	54					
U.K.	34	36	38	40	42	44					
U.S.A.	Small	Medium	Large		Extra Large						
Shoes											
Israel and Europe	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46		
U.K.	5	5-1/2	6-1/2	7-1/2	8	9	9-1/2	10-1/2	11		
U.S.A.	6-1/2	7	8	9	9-1/2	10-1/2	11	12	12-1/2		

Dresses, Suits, Skirts, Coats

Israel and Europe	40	42	44	46	48	50	52
U.K.	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
U.S.A.	10	12	14	16	18	20	22

Blouses, Sweaters, Jumpers

Israel and Europe	38	40	42	44	46	48	50
U.K.	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
U.S.A.	30	32	34	36	38	40	42

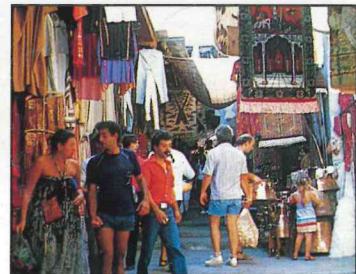
Shoes

Israel and Europe	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
U.K.	3-1/2	4	5	5-1/2	6-1/2	7-1/2	8	9
U.S.A.	5	6	7	8	8-1/2	9	9-1/2	10-1/2

Israel and Europe	1	2	5	7	9	10	12
U.K.	2	4	6	8	10	12	14
U.S.A.	10	12	14	16	18	20	22

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